

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner comprising:

a refrigerant circuit including a compression mechanism, a heat source heat exchanger configured such that refrigerant enters the heat source heat exchanger at a position on ~~[[the]]~~a lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger, and leaves the heat source heat exchanger from a position on ~~[[the]]~~an upper portion of the heat source heat exchanger when the heat source heat exchanger functions as an evaporator of the refrigerant, a plurality of utilization heat exchangers, a liquid refrigerant pipe connecting the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers, and an expansion valve disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe, the refrigerant circuit being configured to switch to cause the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers to function separately as evaporators or condensers of the refrigerant;

a first bypass circuit selectively conducting the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to an intake side of the compression mechanism; and

an oil returning circuit connecting ~~[[a]]~~the lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger and the intake side of the compression mechanism, the oil returning circuit being arranged in a unit with the heat source heat exchanger and compression mechanism separate from ~~[[the]]~~ units having the plurality of utilization heat exchangers, the oil returning circuit

being configured to return oil from the heat source heat exchanger to the compression mechanism within the unit,

the refrigerant circuit, the first bypass circuit and the oil returning circuit being further operatively arranged with respect to one another such that when the heat source heat exchanger is caused to function as an evaporator an oil recovery operation is ~~configured to be temporarily~~ conducted by temporarily causing the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to be bypassed to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the first bypass circuit, causing the heat source heat exchanger to function ~~temporarily~~ as a condenser, and closing the expansion valve, the refrigerant being discharged from the compression mechanism is caused to flow into the heat source heat exchanger, and refrigerating machine oil accumulating inside the heat source heat exchanger being returned to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the oil returning circuit.

2. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner comprising:

a refrigerant circuit including a compression mechanism, a heat source heat exchanger configured such that refrigerant enters the heat source heat exchanger at a position on ~~[[the]]~~a lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger, and leaves the heat source heat exchanger from a position on ~~[[the]]~~an upper portion of the heat source heat exchanger when the heat source heat exchanger functions as an evaporator of the refrigerant, a plurality of utilization heat exchangers, a liquid refrigerant pipe connecting the heat source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers, an expansion valve disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe, a heat source switch mechanism configured to switch between a condensation operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as a condenser of the refrigerant

discharged from the compression mechanism and an evaporation operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as an evaporator of the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe, a high-pressure gas refrigerant pipe connected between an intake side of the compression mechanism and the heat source switch mechanism and configured to branch the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism before the refrigerant flows into the heat source switch mechanism, a plurality of utilization switch mechanisms configured to switch between a cooling operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as an evaporator of the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe and a heating operation switched state that causes the heat source heat exchanger to function as a condenser of the refrigerant flowing through the high-pressure gas refrigerant pipe, and a low-pressure gas refrigerant pipe that sends the refrigerant evaporated in the utilization heat exchangers to the intake side of the compression mechanism;

a first bypass circuit selectively conducting the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to the intake side of the compression mechanism; and

an oil returning circuit connecting ~~[[a]]~~the lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger and the intake side of the compression mechanism, the oil returning circuit being arranged in a unit with the heat source heat exchanger and compression mechanism separate from ~~[[the]]~~ units having the plurality of utilization heat exchangers, the oil returning circuit being configured to return oil from the heat source heat exchanger to the compression mechanism within the unit,

the refrigerant circuit, the first bypass circuit and the oil returning circuit being further operatively arranged with respect to one another such that when the heat source switch mechanism is switched to the evaporation operation switched state, an oil recovery operation

is ~~configured to be temporarily~~ conducted by temporarily causing the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to be bypassed to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the first bypass circuit, switching the heat source switch mechanism to the condensation operation switched state, and closing the expansion valve, the refrigerant being discharged from the compression mechanism is caused to flow into the heat source heat exchanger, and refrigerating machine oil accumulating inside the heat source heat exchanger being returned to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the oil returning circuit.

3. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 1, further comprising

a second bypass circuit connected between the utilization heat exchangers and the expansion valve, configured to branch the refrigerant from the liquid refrigerant pipe and send the refrigerant to the intake side of the compression mechanism, and disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe.

4. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 3, further comprising

a receiver connected between the utilization heat exchangers and the expansion valve that accumulates the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe and disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe, and

the second bypass circuit being disposed so as to send the refrigerant from an upper portion of the receiver to the intake side of the compression mechanism.

5. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger is configured to use, as a heat source, water supplied at
a constant flow rate without relation to a control of a flow rate of the refrigerant flowing
inside the heat source heat exchanger.

6. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger includes a plate heat exchanger.

7. (Currently Amended) An air conditioner comprising:
a refrigerant circuit including a compression mechanism, a heat source heat exchanger
configured such that refrigerant enters the heat source heat exchanger at a position on ~~[[the]]~~a
lower portion of the heat source heat exchanger, and leaves the heat source heat exchanger
from a position on ~~[[the]]~~an upper portion of the heat source heat exchanger when the heat
source heat exchanger functions as an evaporator of the refrigerant, and a plurality of
utilization heat exchangers, the refrigerant circuit being configured to switch to cause the heat
source heat exchanger and the utilization heat exchangers to function separately as
evaporators or condensers of the refrigerant; and

an oil returning circuit that connects ~~[[a]]~~the lower portion of the heat source heat
exchanger and an intake side of the compression mechanism, the oil returning circuit being
arranged in a unit with the heat source heat exchanger and compression mechanism separate
from ~~[[the]]~~ units having the plurality of utilization heat exchangers, the oil returning circuit
being configured to return oil from the heat source heat exchanger to the compression
mechanism within the unit,

the refrigerant circuit and the oil returning circuit being further operatively arranged with respect to each other such that when the heat source heat exchanger is caused to function as an evaporator, an oil recovery operation is ~~configured to be temporarily~~ conducted by temporarily causing the heat source heat exchanger to function ~~temporarily~~ as a condenser, the refrigerant being discharged from the compression mechanism is caused to flow into the heat source heat exchanger, and refrigerating machine oil accumulating inside the heat source heat exchanger is returned to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the oil returning circuit.

8. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 7, further comprising

a first bypass circuit selectively bypassing the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism to an intake side of the compression mechanism, the refrigerant discharged from the compression mechanism being bypassed to the intake side of the compression mechanism via the first bypass circuit during the oil recovery operation.

9. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 2, further comprising

a second bypass circuit connected between the utilization heat exchangers and the expansion valve, configured to branch the refrigerant from the liquid refrigerant pipe and send the refrigerant to the intake side of the compression mechanism, and disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe.

10. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 9, further comprising

a receiver connected between the utilization heat exchangers and the expansion valve that accumulates the refrigerant flowing through the liquid refrigerant pipe and disposed in the liquid refrigerant pipe, and

the second bypass circuit being disposed so as to send the refrigerant from an upper portion of the receiver to the intake side of the compression mechanism.

11. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 2, wherein the heat source heat exchanger is configured to use, as a heat source, water supplied at a constant flow rate without relation to a control of a flow rate of the refrigerant flowing inside the heat source heat exchanger.

12. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 2, wherein the heat source heat exchanger includes a plate heat exchanger.

13. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 3, wherein the heat source heat exchanger is configured to use, as a heat source, water supplied at a constant flow rate without relation to a control of a flow rate of the refrigerant flowing inside the heat source heat exchanger.

14. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 3, wherein the heat source heat exchanger includes a plate heat exchanger.

15. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 9, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger is configured to use, as a heat source, water supplied at
a constant flow rate without relation to a control of a flow rate of the refrigerant flowing
inside the heat source heat exchanger.

16. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 9, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger includes a plate heat exchanger.

17. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 4, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger is configured to use, as a heat source, water supplied at
a constant flow rate without relation to a control of a flow rate of the refrigerant flowing
inside the heat source heat exchanger.

18. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 4, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger includes a plate heat exchanger.

19. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 10, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger is configured to use, as a heat source, water supplied at
a constant flow rate without relation to a control of a flow rate of the refrigerant flowing
inside the heat source heat exchanger.

20. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 10, wherein
the heat source heat exchanger includes a plate heat exchanger.